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but the holding of the peasant who contributed one ox to the plough team of eight oxen. In like manner, the territorial virgate was not the derivative of the hide, but was the normal tenement of the south, measured by the *virga,* or rod, and containing thirty "customary acres", or sixty-acre strips measured by the five-yard rod of the south. The customary acre and the customary rods of different lengths in different districts by which it was measured, thus established, are very valuable additions to our knowledge of early land measures. Mr. Turner might have added Lincolnshire to the districts in which the "stang" occurs.

With regard to the origin of the hide, the manorial system, and the vill, the suggestions, while tentative, are of great importance by reason of Mr. Turner's mastery of the evidence and the clarity and independence of his thought. The manorial system he takes back again to the Romans, accepting those parts of Seebohm's theory that have not been refuted. The hide, he suggests, corresponded to the Roman lord's domain, and formed the unit of allotment to the German settler, who had under him sixteen peasants each holding one virgate, foreshadowing thus the five-hide arrangement proved by Mr. Round. The so-called big-hide argument of Maitland is probably thus met; the free lordless village remains a difficulty, but Mr. Turner promises further discussion. The intermixture of the lord's strips with the villagers', which would weigh against his conclusion, he believes to be the result of later acquisition, and the original demesne to have been separate, although measured in strips for convenience of cultivation. For the vill as an agrarian unit he substitutes a "mere group of hides", an administrative unit equivalent to the tithing of ten hides, a tenth of the hundred, suggesting on the authority of William of Malmesbury that Alfred was responsible for the institution of the hundred and the tithing or vill. Such suggestions raise many questions, and lead one to hope that Mr. Turner will soon carry his study of Anglo-Saxon conditions further—that he will consider, for example, the history of the agrarian unit in districts like Norfolk where, as Mr. Haverfield has pointed out, the Roman villa or farm did not appear.

N. NEILSON.

Georgius Agricola: De Re Metallica. Translated from the first Latin edition of 1556 with Biographical Introduction, Annotations, and Appendices upon the Development of Mining Methods, Metallurgical Processes, Geology, Mineralogy and Mining Law from the Earliest Times to the Sixteenth Century. By HERBERT CLARK HOOVER, A.B., and LOU HENRY HOOVER, A.B. (London: published for the Translators by *The Mining Magazine.* 1912. Pp. xxxi, 640.)

THIS translation of the ***magnum opus*** of Agricola is a noteworthy monument of patient and intelligent scholarship and generous private expenditure, and is worthily dedicated to Professor John Caspar

Branner, of Stanford University, under the inspiration of whose teaching it was conceived and executed.

Famous in its day, Agricola's *De Re Metallica* has been famous ever since. For two hundred years after its first appearance in 1556, it was the principal authority in mining and metallurgy; and students and teachers have frequently referred to it ever since. But it is noteworthy that, in English literature at least, its splendid self-explanatory engravings have been copied or cited a great deal, and its text very little. The reason is, that while the pictures are clear, the text is obscure. For Agricola, writing in Latin, coined numerous new Latin words for technical terms which that language could not furnish. To make the matter worse, a German translation, made, at the request of the Elector Augustus of Saxony, by a professor of medicine at the University of Basel, where it was published in 1557, was marred throughout by blunders due to the translator's total ignorance of the subject and its technical terminology. Many a student, trying to make out the author's meaning through the German translator's awful confusion, has abandoned the attempt in despair. Even to-day there exists no correct German translation, and probably this English translation is the first that has ever given with even approximate accuracy, the meaning of the Latin original, the obscurities of which have been removed by *expert* study of the text itself, comparison with an incomplete glossary made by Agricola himself, and thorough research in the technical literature of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This work required both literary and technical training—a combination rarely found in one person, but furnished in this case by the partnership of husband and wife, both Stanford graduates, and the latter specially familiar with the Latin language and with editorial work. The result of their mutually indispensable labors is this folio, which not only reproduces, in the splendor of its vellum binding, linen paper, beautiful type, and graphic illustrations, the volume issued by Froben of Basel (one of the finest specimens of the art of the sixteenth century, and not surpassed to-day), but also gives us the means of comprehending and estimating Agricola himself, who, though recognized, to some extent, by his own countrymen, has certainly not received from the rest of the world the praise he deserved.

Agricola was born in 1494, at Glauchau, Saxony; studied at the University of Leipzig; was for some years principal of the municipal school at Zwickau, where he taught Greek and Latin, and published a Latin grammar; went to Italy, where for three years he studied philosophy, medicine, and the natural sciences, and made, through correspondence, the acquaintance of Erasmus, then Froben's editor at Basel; returned to Saxony and became in 1527 town-physician of Joachimsthal, in the busy mining district of the Erzgebirge. Here, in the intervals of practice, he eagerly studied both the practice and the history of mining and metallurgy, and subsequently, while town-physician of Chemnitz, where he resided until his death in 1555, he began the series of publications upon which his reputation rests, and which includes *De Re Metallica,* but also *Bermannus,* a sort of miners' catechism;

De Ortu et Causis Subterraneorum, the first work on physical geology; *De Natura eorum quae effluunt ex Terra,* a treatise on subterranean waters and gases; *De Natura Fossilium,* the first systematic mineralogy; and *De Animantibus Subterraneis,* an account of animals living under ground; and many other publications of less importance. In other departments he published *De Mensuris et Ponderibus,* a discussion of Greek and Roman weights and measures; *De Peste,* an essay on the plague; and a pamphlet inspired by the Turkish siege of Vienna in 1529, and urging the extermination of the Turks by European powers, which passed through many editions. The leisure for these numerous undertakings, and possibly also the means for paying the printer, may have come from his interest in a rich silver-mine, discovered in 1530, for the continuous dividends from which he records in 1545 his gratitude to God. It is known also that he was employed (and doubtless paid) as a consulting engineer.

But besides all this literary and professional activity, Agricola occupied a singular position in religion and politics. Sympathizing at first with the reformers, he refused to accept the Lutheran revolt, and remained to the end a stanch Catholic, urging even upon his patron, the belligerent Protestant Duke Maurice of Saxony, a return to the bosom of the Church. Yet, so great was the esteem and confidence inspired by his personal character that he was appointed by that same duke burgomaster of the Protestant city of Chemnitz, and held that office for four terms, besides serving on sundry occasions as a diplomatic adviser or representative of the government.

In the sphere which was specially his own, Agricola did as much as any other man to clear away the rubbish of tradition, superstition, and alchemy, and to lay the foundations of modern geology, mineralogy, and metallurgy. His work and his character alike mark him as truly great. Fame is not merely merit, but merit recognized by many men; and Mr. and Mrs. Hoover may well find their greatest satisfaction in the knowledge that they have contributed in no small degree to such a reward for illustrious service.[1]

Special mention should be made in conclusion, of the abundant footnotes with which this translation has been enriched. They were not strictly necessary to the translation itself; but they are precious and welcome guides to the student of medieval science.

ROSSITER W. RAYMOND.

Les Origines Politiques des Guerres de Religion. Par LUCIEN ROMIER. Tome I. *Henri II. et l'Italie (1547–1555).* (Paris: Perrin et Cie. 1913. Pp. ix, 577.)

THIS book is what might be expected from the author of *Jacques d'Albon de Saint André, Maréchal de France* (Paris, 1909). It is the

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[1] In recognition of their work in translating and publishing this treatise the first gold medal awarded by the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America was awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Hoover at a dinner of the society held in New York on March 9. ED.